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WORLD CUP IN MIND, INDIA NAME BALANCED SQUAD FOR ASIA CUP

KL Rahul & Shreyas Iyer were named in the India's squad for Asia Cup. Both were recovering after undergoing thigh & back surgeries respectively

CHAHAL AXED, BUMRAH & KRISHNA IN

Chairman of selector Ajit Agarkar in presence of captain Rohit Sharma named the 17-member squad, which includes pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna, who have already made their international comebacks during the ongoing T20I series in Ireland after undergoing back surgeries. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal is the notable exclusion from the team

ROOKIE VARMA SET FOR ONE-DAY DEBUT

- Left-hander Tilak Varma has also made it to the squad after his impressive show in maiden T20I series against West Indies where he top-scored for India with 173 runs from five matches
- Asia Cup starts on August 30 with Pakistan hosting Nepal. India will play their first match against Pakistan in Pallekele on Sept 2 | P15

SEVEN

NUMBER OF TIMES INDIA WON ASIA CUP, MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAM

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SC bench to hear Cauvery row

TN counsel says fate of 14.91 lakh acres of paddy and future of four million farmers at stake

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday agreed to constitute a bench for hearing the Tamil Nadu government's plea to direct Karnataka to release forthwith 24,000 cusecs of water from its reservoirs to save the standing paddy crops.

After senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi mentioned the issue, a bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud agreed to constitute the bench. "I'll constitute a bench today (Monday)," the CJI said. The details about the proposed bench are awaited.

Tamil Nadu in its plea said the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had on August 11, 2023, reduced the water to be released by Karnataka for 15 days (from August 11) from KRS and Kabini reservoirs to be realised at Billigundulu on the interstate border to 10,000 cusecs (0.864 tmcft per day) from 15,000 cusecs. "But even this has not been complied with by the Karnataka government," Tamil Nadu said.

The Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee (CWRC) had on August 10 asked Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs per day for 15 days. "The actual flow recorded at Billigundulu on August 11, 12, 13, and 14 was 6,148 cusecs, 4,852, 4,453 and 4,000 cusecs, respectively," Tamil Nadu told the top court. Karnataka is duty bound to release 177.25 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu as per the 2018 order of the Supreme Court, the state said in its plea.

"About 14.91 lakh acres (net sown area) are dependent on Mettur reservoir, which in turn is dependent on the quantum of water realised at Billigundulu based on water released by Karnataka from KRS and Kabini reservoirs. During the southwest monsoon season, both kuruvai and samba crops are sown and transplanted in the Cauvery delta region of Tamil Nadu. Hence, release of water from Mettur during the season is crucial for TN. About four million farmers and 10 million labourers are directly and indirectly dependent on Mettur water for their livelihood in TN. Agricultural operation in the delta region is suffering for want of adequate water and the crops are facing water stress. This would affect the state's agricultural production," TN said in its plea.

The DMK government has also prayed for directing Karnataka to ensure release of water to Tamil Nadu for the month of September, make good the shortfall of 28.849 tmcft for the current irrigation year, and direct CWMA to ensure that Karnataka ensures stipulated monthly release during the remaining period of the current water year (June to May).

BJP cadres protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, in Mandya on Monday | EXPRESS

DKS: Decision after tomorrow's all-party meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WATER Resources Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said the state government will take a decision on the issue of releasing Cauvery water after discussing it at an all-party meeting on Wednesday.

"It is unfortunate that the Tamil Nadu government has gone to the Supreme Court. They know that the situation is bad in Karnataka. Though we faced criticism, we released water to Tamil Nadu, respecting the law. But we are not able to meet their demand," Shivakumar told reporters.

His statement comes in view of the Supreme Court's decision to constitute a separate bench to hear Tamil Nadu's plea for release of Cauvery water.

He said the directive was to release 10,000 cusecs a day till August 31. But that was not fully implemented. "Today, the Supreme Court stated it will form a new bench. We will hold an all-party meeting on Wednesday. After the meeting, we will take a decision on the issue." P4

MANIPUR SITUATION

Blockade back by Kuki body on 2 nat'l highways

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

A tribal organisation in Manipur on Monday reimposed a blockade on two National Highways for an indefinite period alleging that the Centre failed to act against a "selective blockade" imposed by "Meitei mobs" in the Imphal valley targeting Kukis. Volunteers of Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) were out on National Highways 2 and 37 — the lifelines of the state — to ensure the blockade is strictly enforced.

NH 2 enters Manipur from Nagaland and is a shorter route while NH 37 snakes into the state from Assam and is a longer route. Both highways pass through the Kuki-majority Kangpokpi district before entering the Imphal valley. On August 17, the CoTU had set a three-day deadline, asking the Centre to ensure the free movement of supplies to some Kuki-majority hill districts.

Meanwhile, the Manipur Assembly did not meet though the state cabinet had recommended Governor Anusuiya Uikey to convene it from August 21. The Governor, however, did not issue a notification to that effect. The notification has to be issued 15 days ahead of a session.

"On July 27th, the state government requests Governor of Manipur to convene special session of Assembly in the third week of August. On August 4th, Governor is requested once again to convene special session, but this time on a specific date, namely August 21st," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote on the micro blogging site X. Yet, the session was not called.

Earlier, all 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven from ruling BJP, had expressed their inability to attend the session due to the continuing violence in the state.

Nagas rap Kuki-Zos

The Nagas, who remained silent all along on the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur, criticised the Kuki-Zo community for allegedly distorting the state's history

Laptops for all govt deg college students: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the state government is planning to distribute laptops to students of all degree colleges run by it.

This was decided at a meeting of vice-chancellors of universities under the state government.

Siddaramaiah directed the officials to resume distribution of laptops to SC/ST students, which was stopped some time ago. He told them to distribute laptops to SC students under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and for those from ST communities under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). He directed Manivannan, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, to provide Rs 230 crore for the same.

The CM said irrespective of their caste and religion, all students of degree colleges under the government should be given laptops. "We will prepare a plan for the same in the coming days," he added.

Siddaramaiah said 50% of posts in the universities are vacant. In all, 1,882 posts have been filled.

Some vice-chancellors said the universities have to pay salaries for 2,865 guest lecturers and also pensions for retired employees from the funds earmarked for them. This has increased the financial burden on them.

Referring to the allocation of Rs 5,470 crore for universities in this year's budget, they stressed the need for an additional allocation of Rs 2,474 crore. CONTINUED ON: P4

DEFACING B'LURU

BBMP slaps ₹50K fine on Cong cell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOR the first time, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Monday slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 on KPCC's Backward Classes Cell for putting up a banner in the city.

The Palike also filed a police complaint in this regard. The KPCC BCs Cell had put up a banner to mark the birth anniversaries of former PM Rajiv Gandhi and former chief minister Devaraj Urs on No. 94, Queen's Road. Officials of the BBMP's East Zone removed the banner and initiated action on the KPCC Cell.

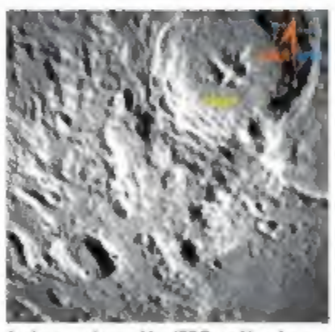
"So far, notices were served and complaints filed against those who violated the ban order. But this time, we penalised the KPCC Cell and filed a complaint with the High Grounds Police. We took action based on the high court order, and the directive of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar to remove all illegal hoardings and penalise the violators," a senior BBMP official told *TNIE*.

'Welcome buddy!' Chandrayaan 3 lander sets link with predecessor

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

TWO days ahead of Chandrayaan 3's lander module, Vikram, attempting a record by soft-landing near the lunar south pole, it has established a two-way communication link with its predecessor mission Chandrayaan 2, whose orbiter continues to orbit the Moon despite its lander failing to achieve that feat four years ago.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the X platform said, "Welcome, buddy! Ch-2 (Chandrayaan 2) orbiter formally welcomed Ch-3 (Chandrayaan 3) LM (lander module Vikram). Two-way communication between the two is established. MOX (Mission Operations Complex) now has more routes to reach the LM."



A photo, released by ISRO on Monday, shows the far side of the lunar surface

ISRO had earlier said Chandrayaan 2 orbiter, Pradhan, would help facilitate communication between Chandrayaan 3 and ISRO's earth-based stations to help scientists keep an eye on the well-being of Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover throughout their 14-day mission.

The on-site lunar mission is expected to begin soon after Vikram lands near the lunar south pole and deploys Pragyaan rover on August 23 evening.

The two-way communication link between lander Vikram and Pradhan orbiter of Chandrayaan 2 would boost the process of obtaining and issuing commands from MOX at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru and the Deep Space Network at Byalalu near Bengaluru, which will receive data from the on-site lunar experiments conducted near the lunar south pole. The MOX provides tracking and orbit manoeuvring support for its satellites during space missions, including Chandrayaan 3. CONTINUED ON: P5

Restore papers lost in violence: Panel

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

A three-judge committee formed by the Supreme Court to oversee relief and rehabilitation in Manipur, on Monday submitted three reports in the court suggesting reconstruction of documents of the affected people and compensation. The court said it will pass procedural directions on August 25 to facilitate the functioning of the panel headed by former judge Gita Mittal.

The reports highlight the need for reconstructing essential documents lost by residents, upgradation of the Manipur Victim Compensation Scheme (MVCS) and appointment of domain experts to facilitate the panel's work in core areas. The core areas included violence, comprehensive psychological assistance and mental health care, medical care and health, relief camps, and data reporting and monitoring.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said, "The first of the three reports highlights the loss of essential documentation of the residents of Manipur who have been dishoused. The committee suggests the appointment of a nodal officer to take charge of the reconstruction of the documents."

In the second report, the committee suggested substantial improvement of the MVCS since it barred the victims from receipt of compensation from any other scheme. In other states, if a victim has got benefits under any other scheme, it is taken into consideration while deciding the relief under the new scheme. The report suggested upgrading MVCS to bring it in conformity with the one mooted by NALSA (National Legal Services Authority).

Gita Mittal

Directions

The procedural directions the SC intends to issue include funding, setting up a web portal and other infra requirements

VSSC

CANCELS EXAM AFTER DETECTING FRAUD

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, T'puram has cancelled a recruitment test held on Sunday following a report by police about a 'hi-tech fraud' involving a Haryana-based racket | P5

EXPRESS READ

Panel to formulate education policy

Bengaluru: The state government will constitute a committee to formulate a new state education policy, scrapping the New Education Policy (NEP) introduced last year, said CM Siddaramaiah. P6

Gandhi statue vandalised in S'mogga

Shivamogga: A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalised in Holehonnur in Shivamogga taluk on Monday. Police have registered a case and formed three teams to trace the accused involved in the incident. P5

SC allows rape survivor to terminate pregnancy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a rape survivor to undergo termination of her over 27-week pregnancy. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said the Gujarat HC was not right in rejecting her plea. P10

Cell to curb fake news

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday approved setting up of a Fact-Checking Cell in the state to curb the fake news menace on social media.

The cell will be tasked with identifying fake news and tracing those responsible for it, restricting dissemination of fake news and ensuring stringent punishment to the accused.

The decision to set up the cell was taken at a meeting held to discuss issues related to cyber security here.

Observing that fake news is a big threat to democracy, Siddaramaiah stressed the urgent need to put an end to it. Appropriate rules and laws will be formulated in this regard, he said. The CM was apprised of the functional aspects of the cell. The officials informed him that the Cell will have a supervisory committee, nodal officers, analysis teams and capacity-building units.

Minister for IT-BT Priyank Kharge said, "Initially, the Department of Information Technology will assist the Cell. It should be given legal powers and function under the Home Department," he said.

Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "Those who spread and use fake news should be penalised."

BIG MOVE

Boy to man, Pragg's tie-break dance into final vs Carlsen

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

THERE'S something magical about witnessing sporting history as it unfolds in real time. Drama. Possibilities. Comparisons. In an instant, the moment is sold to all and sundry but the purity remains. At roughly 9.01 PM on Monday, R Praggnanandhaa joined one of the most exclusive of Indian sporting clubs — only Indian, Viswanathan Anand, had featured at the Candidates — after he engineered a sensational take down of Fabiano Caruana in tiebreaks.

At the fag end of a marathon semifinal that had gone into the third day, the 18-year-old had the finish line in sight: literally and metaphorically. In one smooth motion, he advanced the pawn from A7 to A8, exchanging it for a queen. It was akin to a general ordering their troops for one final assault to defeat a wounded enemy. Caruana may have as well given up the ghost. He did just that a few moves later to hand the Indian the decisive advantage in the second of the two sets of rapid tie-breaks. It was enough for the teenager to advance to the World Cup final against Norway's Magnus Carlsen.

R Praggnanandhaa beat Fabiano Caruana in tie-break of World Cup on Monday

It's just reward for the boy who became a man (he turned 18 during the event) in this record-breaking ascent of his. After two relatively soft-ball match-ups to get his tournament after a smooth start, he had to dig deep to eliminate Hikaru Nakamura in a shorter time control tiebreaks. He also survived a bum-clenching third day against friend and compatriot Arjun Erigaisi in the quarterfinal.

It could have gone so wrong for the Tamil Nadu player had Caruana correctly calculated a massive opening during the middle game in the first batch of tie-breaks. But the higher-rated US player made an error in judgement. From there, Pragg, who becomes one of the youngest players to feature in the final in its history, recovered lost ground to maintain parity as Caruana veered off course.

Over the course of the last three weeks, he has beaten the World No. 3 and the World No. 2. His next task? Beating the World No. 1. P15